

## Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01

/089 W

----- 003266

R 062001 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9044

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 9788

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PGOV FR

SUBJECT: FOCCART TO REMAIN AT ELYSEE

1. IN AN EFFORT TO PUT TO REST PERSISTENT RUMORS THAT PRESIDENT POMPIDOU AS PART OF RECENT GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE INTENDED TO REMOVE JACQUES FOCCART FROM HIS POSITION AS SECRETARY GENERAL FOR COMMUNITY AND AFRICAN AND MALAGASY AFFAIRS, FOCCART'S OFFICE FORMALLY DENIED APRIL 5 THAT FOCCART WOULD BE LEAVING FOR ANOTHER POST, INCLUDING RUMORED ASSIGNMENT AS FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN ADDIS ABABA.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH FOCCART HAS BEEN RECONFIRMED IN  
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POSITION HE HAS HELD SINCE 1961, HIS INFLUENCE IN OVERALL STRUCTURE OF FRENCH DECISION MAKING TOWARDS AFRICA IS FUNDAMENTALLY ON DECLINE. OTHER ELEMENTS OF FRENCH GOVERNMENT CONCERNED WITH AFRICA, AND WITH FRANCE'S ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SECURITY INTERESTS THERE, ARE PLAYING INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE. FOCCART, HOWEVER, REMAINS IMPORTANT LINK BETWEEN ELYSEE AND SOME OF OLDER AFRICAN LEADERS, AND HE AND HIS STAFF ARE IMPORTANT RESERVOIRS OF TALENT AND EXPERIENCE WHICH POMPIDOU IS OBVIOUSLY NOT WILLING TO GIVE UP.

3. IN ADDITION, GIVEN TRANSITIONAL PERIOD THROUGH WHICH FRANCO- AFRICAN RELATIONS ARE PASSING, WITH SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS EITHER UNDERWAY OR ANTICIPATED, POMPIDOU MAY HAVE CALCULATED THAT REMOVAL OF FOCCART MIGHT HAVE BEEN CONSTRUED AS ADMISSION OF GOF WEAKNESS AND/ OR OF MORE EXTREME CHANGES IN FRENCH POLICY THAT ARE IN FACT LIKELY.

4. RESIDUAL IMPORTANCE OF FOCCART'S ORGANIZATION TO POMPIDOU, HOWEVER, SHOULD NOT OBSCURE FACT THAT HIS ACTIVITIES AND INFLUENCE ARE INCREASINGLY LIMITED. FOCCART HAS AGED AND HE HAS NOT BEEN ALTOGETHER WELL THIS WINTER. IT IS NOT, THEREFORE, IMPROBABLE THAT AT SOME POINT IN NEXT YEAR OR 18 MONTHS, FOCCART MIGHT STEP DOWN FOR PERSONAL REASONS IF NOT FOR REASONS OF STATE.

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971203  
**Subject:** FOCCART TO REMAIN AT ELYSEE  
**TAGS:** PGOV, FR  
**To:** ABIDJAN  
ADDIS ABABA  
BAMAKO  
BANGUI  
COTONOU  
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EUR

FORT LAMY  
SECSTATE WASHDC

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